credit on a normative basis, and the quality of its delivery, for viable operations of this sector. A special monitoring agency would be set up to oversee that the genuine credit needs of the small scale sector are fully met.

(iii) To provide access to the capital market and to encourage modernisation and technological upgradation, it has been decided to allow equity participation by other industrial undertakings in the SSI, not exceeding 24 per cent of the total shareholding. This would also provide a powerfull boost to ancillarisation & sub-contracting, leading to expansion of employment opportunities.

(iv) A beginning has been made towards solving the problem of delayed payments to small industries by setting up of factoring services through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Network of such services would be set up throughout the country and operated through commercial banks. A suitable legislation will be introduced to ensure prompt payment of Small Industries bills.

Growth Centres for Industries

3026. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements under the scheme for setting up growth centres for industries in backward areas since its inception:

(b) the number of growth centres developed so far:

(c) the number of industrial units established so far, district-wise; and

(d) whether industrial units have been set up in the former district of Purnia, which has now been trifurcated; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (d) The Government in June, 1988 announced a scheme to set up growth centres throughout the country to promote industrialisation of backward areas. It is proposed to develop 70 growth centres under the Scheme, out of which locations of 63 growth centres have been identified and announced. The Scheme would be implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan. In the case of Bihar, 6 growth centres have been allotted to the State, out of which locations of 5 growth centres have been identified. One of the selected growth centres is in District Purnea (Purnea Kasba). No project report for any of the selected growth centres has been sent by the Government of Bihar.

Cold Storages

3027. SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of cold storages at present in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): There are 2795 cold storages in the country at present. The State-wise break-up is as follows: